

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LY

SUBJ: GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ENDS

REF: TRIPOLI 1342, TRIPOLI 1473, TRIPOLI 1491

SUMMARY: GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ENDED NOV. 26. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUDGET AND FOREIGN POLICY WITH PARTICULAR PRAISE OF SOVIETS WERE ADOPTED. MAJOR DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT REFORM OF "PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY" AND KORANIC LAW DEBATE TO CONTINUE AT LOCAL PARTY LEVEL UNTIL GENERAL CONGRESS RECONVENES MARCH 3, 1977. COMMENT: CONGRESS OVERTURE TO EAST REFLECTS CLOSER TIES AMONG LIBYANS, SOVIETS AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THREE MONTH DEBATE AND LIKELY APPROVAL OF LARGE REORGANIZATION WILL STRENGTHEN POPULAR BASE OF QADHAFI'S RULE.
END COMMENT

1. THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF THE NEWLY TITLED LIBYAN ARAB PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC ENDED ITS TWELFTH AND FINAL SESSION NOV. 26. ITS 980 DELEGATES REPRESENTING VARIOUS STRATUM OF LIBYA'S POPULATION ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE COUNTRY'S 6.9 BILLION DOLLAR ADMINISTRATIVE AND TRANSFORMATION (DEVELOPMENT) BUDGETS. COL. QADHAFI
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IN AN APPARENT RESPONSE TO THE DELEGATES' CRITICISM

THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE AMPLE TIME TO STUDY THE MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY'S COMPLEX ESTIMATES AND DETAILS OF THE BUDGET, DIRECTED THAT IN THE FUTURE THE PROPOSED BUDGETS AND ESTIMATES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BASIC PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES FOR THEIR STUDY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL CONGRESS. THE CONGRESS DELEGATES ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT INDUSTRIAL AND TRAINING CENTERS BE WIDELY DISPERSED WITHIN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS.

2. THE DELEGATES INSTITUTIONALIZED THE RCC'S AUTHORITY TO FORMULATE LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND REAFFIRMED LIBYA'S GOALS OF ARAB UNITY, THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS, SUPPORT OF THE PLO AND "ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS," SUPPORT OF NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT POLICY BASED ON SLOGAN "WE RETURN GOOD WITH GOOD AND EVIL WITH EVIL," AND A CONTINUATION OF ITS POLICY IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND PROSELYTIZING ISLAM. IN A JESTURE OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO PLEASE THE SOVIETS, THE CONGRESS RECOMMENDED STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP TIES WITH SOCIAL COUNTRIES, "PARTICULARY THE SOVIET UNION." THIS RECOMMENDATION SUPPOSEDLY REFLECTED THE CONGRESS' (READ QADHAFI'S) SENSE OF "A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY" TO STRENGTHEN THESE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF ITS "HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP," AND THE CONGRESS "AFFIRMS THE NECESSITY OF GIVING THIS FRIENDSHIP ITS DESERVING STRATEGIC DIMENSION AS IT SERVES THE CAUSE OF REVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE HOMELAND AND REALIZES THE ARAB NATION'S SUPREME OBJECTIVE."

3. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE CONGRESS POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 3, 1977, ACCEPTANCE OF THE TWO MAJOR DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT REFORM PROPOSALS ESTABLISHING GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AS "PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY." THE LOCAL CONGRESSES WILL DEBATE THIS AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO ADOPT THE KORAN AS LIBYA'S BASIC LAW DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. QADHAFI TOLD THE FINAL SESSION THAT IF ADOPTED, THE PRESENT "PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY" DRAFT WOULD FORMALLY DISSOLVE THE ARAB SOCIALIST UNION WHICH WOULD BE REPLACED BY THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES WITH THIS NEW AUTHORITY. COMMENT: THE CONGRESS' INCLUSION OF PRAISE FOR THE

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SOVIET UNION IS PROPITIOUSLY MADE WITH A LIBYAN INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION NOW IN THE SOVIET UNION (REFTEL TRIPOLI 1488 WATCH) NEGOTIATING SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA IN SEVERAL AREAS OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS JESTURE TOWARD SOVIETS SUGGESTS A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THAT MANY OF ITS GRANDIOSE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (I.E. NUCLEAR REACTORS) AND THE STRENGTH OF ITS ARMED FORCES WILL INCREASINGLY DEPEND ON SOVIET

COOPERATION. BRITISH HERE ARE READING OVERTURE TOWARDS
SOVIETS AS INDICATIVE OF SERIOUS SHIFT EASTWARD IN
LARG FOREIGN POLICY. SERIOUSNESS OF "SHIFT" IS
PROBLEMATIC, BUT WHAT REMAINS CONSISTENT IS QADHAFI'S
INTENTION TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF HIS REVOLUTION
AND PURCHASE ASSISTANCE AND INFLUENCE WHEREVER HE CAN,
EVEN IF IT MEANS GREATER DEPENDENCY ON THE SOVIETS. TO
THIS END PERCEPTION OF DISCERNED SHIFT IS POSSIBLY
REINFORCED BY RUMOR THAT QADHAFI PLANS TRIP TO SOVIET
UNION IN NEAR FUTURE.
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